

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 9, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Bolosky. Claims 4-8, 10-14, and 19-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolosky in view of Puhl.

The Applicants are submitting with this response, a declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 showing that the invention was conceived in the United States prior to March 21, 2001. This declaration removes the Bolosky reference from consideration.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references. As the Applicant has overcome all substantive rejections given by the Examiner the Applicant contends that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's rejections to the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Finally, please charge any fees (including extension of time fees) or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502117.

Respectfully Submitted,
Messerges, ET AL.

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